

In support of media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question, and it is my hope that eventually, we can somehow go back to earlier, stricter rules limiting ownership of radio stations, limiting amount of advertising towards children, and so on. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. The only way to have a democracy is through informed citizens, and if the information is limited, censored, compromised, democracy fails.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

Don't just bow to the will of a few corporations.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Wanda Ashman